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which sensors provides a different detected response in the presence of said analyte; wherein said sensor array is electrically connected to a computer comprising a resident algorithm; the computer detecting said response and comparing said response to a known sensor array response profile.

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29. (Amended) A sensor array for detecting an analyte in a fluid, said sensor array comprising: first and second sensors wherein said first sensor comprises a sensing region of an aligned conductive magnetic material and a nonconductive insulating region, each of which sensors provides a different detected response in the presence of said analyte; wherein said sensor array is electrically connected to a computer comprising a resident algorithm; the computer detecting said response and comparing said response to a known sensor array response profile.

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants and their representative wish to thank Examiner Easthom for the telephonic interview held on September 4, 2002. During this interview, a number of issues were clarified, which have helped Applicants to more fully address the concerns of the Examiner. Applicants thank Examiner Easthom for his time and the courtesy of extending the interview.

Claims 1-16 and 29-31 are pending in this application. Claims 18-28 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced with the foregoing amendments. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made." Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. FORMALITIES

Claims 18-28 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 29 have been amended.

Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification as originally filed. More particularly, the amendment to claim 1 finds support, in for

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example, claim 18. The amendment to claim 29 finds support on page 6, lines 9-10. As such, no new matter has been introduced and therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendments.

II. FIRST REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 4,433,320 ("Murata *et al.*") or 4,245,506 ("Meiklejohn"). To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the sensor array provides a response in the presence of the analyte. The device further comprises a computer, wherein the computer compares the response to a known sensor array response profile.

The cited art does not teach or suggest the elements of the amended claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

III. SECOND REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-7, 10-11, 13-14, and 29-31 were rejected under U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,634,101 ("Jin *et al.*"). To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the sensor array provides a response in the presence of the analyte. The device further comprises a computer, wherein the computer compares the response to a known sensor array response profile.

The cited art does not teach or suggest the elements of the amended claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

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IV. THIRD REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-16 and 29-31 were rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,742,223 ("Simendinger, III *et al.*"). The Examiner alleges that Simendinger anticipates the claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the sensor array provides a response in the presence of the analyte. The device further comprises a computer, wherein the computer compares the response to a known sensor array response profile.

The cited art does not teach or suggest the elements of the claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

V. FOURTH REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 6,194,769 and 6,290,868 ("Martin *et al.*"), which issued on February 27, 2001 and September 18, 2001, respectively.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) states:

the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, *more than one year prior* to the date of the application for patent in the United States..

The present application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/201,999 filed December 1, 1998. As Martin *et al.* did not publish more than 1 year prior to the date of filing of the priority application, they are not 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) references. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

VI. FOURTH REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Although paragraph 8 sets forth a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) heading, no art was cited. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that any such rejection be withdrawn.

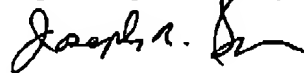
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VII. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice Amended) A sensor array for detecting an analyte in a fluid, said sensor array comprising: first and second sensors wherein said first sensor comprises a sensing region of an aligned conductive material and a nonconductive region, each of which sensors provides a different detected response in the presence of said analyte;[and] wherein said sensor array is electrically connected to [an electrical measuring apparatus;] a computer comprising a resident algorithm; the computer detecting said response and comparing said response to a known sensor array response profile.

29. (Amended) A sensor array for detecting an analyte in a fluid, said sensor array comprising: first and second sensors wherein said first sensor comprises a sensing region of an aligned conductive magnetic material and a nonconductive insulating region, each of which sensors provides a different detected response in the presence of said analyte;[and] wherein said sensor array is electrically connected to [an electrical measuring apparatus;] a computer comprising a resident algorithm; the computer detecting said response and comparing said response to a known sensor array response profile.